

CLUB NEWS



Shelton Thorne

**February 3
SAOS Meeting**
Lola Stark,
seacuter@bellsouth.net

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by President Mike Heinz with 54 people present. We had two guests. Mike thanked Barbara Conrad and Jeanette Smith for the Hospitality Table. Gail welcomed Shirley Berglund back following her fall when she went to water her vandas after dark! Mike reminded people that the Suggestion and Comment Box at the Welcome Table is there for their use. He also reminded everyone to check out the Show Table and pick a favorite for Dick Roth to announce at the end of the evening. We had a table full of gorgeous plants.



Costa Rican Mountain view

Membership dues are now due, that they will be accepted through next month's meeting. After that we will update the 2009 membership list. In the absence of our librarians, Sue Bottom announced that we have a new book in the library called 'Moth Orchids' by Steven Frowine. It is a complete guide to Phalaenopsis. We still have a few copies of the Motes book left which is a wonderful guide to growing all orchids in Florida, month by month. If you haven't picked up a copy from Dick Roth at the Welcome



Mokara Plantation Orchid House

Table you'd better get one soon, before they're all gone. It's especially good for new growers.

Jack Higgins announced that there will be a meeting of the SAOS show committee on February 22 at the Bottom's home at noon. If you are interested in helping with our display at the Jacksonville Orchid Society Show on March 20, please be at this meeting.



La Paz Waterfall

Continued on page 5





Upcoming Events

February

- 14-15 Boca Raton Orchid Society Show
Safe Schools Training Institute
- 27-1 63rd Miami International Orchid Show
Sheraton Mart Hotel & Convention Center

March

- 3 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting
Vanda Hybridizing and Culture
Jim Sabetto, Former Owner Tropic 1 Orchids
- 7 Master Gardeners & SAOS Members
Q&A, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic
Ace on US 1, 9 am to noon
- 13-15 International Orchid Festival
Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami
- 15 Keiki Club, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic
Mounting Orchids Demonstration
1-3 pm, Bottom Residence, 797-4360
6916 Cypress Lake Ct, St Aug
Final JOS Exhibit Committee Mtg at Noon
- 20-21 Englewood Area Orchid Society
United Methodist Church
- 20-22 Port St Lucie Orchid Society Show
Port St Lucie Community Center
- 21-22 Jacksonville Orchid Society Show
Garden Center
- 27-29 Naples Orchid Society Show
United Church of Christ
- 28 Repotting Clinic at SE Branch of St Johns Library
1-3 pm, 6670 US Highway 1 S, St Aug 32086
- 28-29 Orchid Society of Highlands County Show
Ag Civic Center, Sebring

April

- 4 Master Gardeners & SAOS Members
Q&A, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic
Ace on US 1, 9 am to noon
- 7 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting
The 25 Best Orchids I Have Seen in the Last 3
Years
Greg Allikas, Photographer, www.orchidzone.com
- 18 or SAOS Picnic at Krull-Smith Orchids
- 25 ? 11-3 pm, 407-886-4134
2815 West Ponkan Road
Apopka, Florida 32712
- 18-19 Tallahassee Orchid Society Show

25-26 Vero Beach Orchid Society Show
Riverside Park

May

- 2 Master Gardeners & SAOS Members
Q&A, Repotting & Problem Plant Clinic
Ace on US 1, 9 am to noon
- 5 St Augustine Orchid Society Meeting
Color Variation in Orchids
Ron McHatton, AOS Director and Judge
- 15-17 Redlands International Orchid Festival
Redlands Fruit and Spice Park
- 24 ? Keiki Club – Water Quality and Orchids
1 pm, Hackney Residence, 683-9449
12220 Carlsbad Lane, Jacksonville

Thanks to Watson Realty
and Jeanette Smith for the
use of their meeting space
at 3505 US 1 South

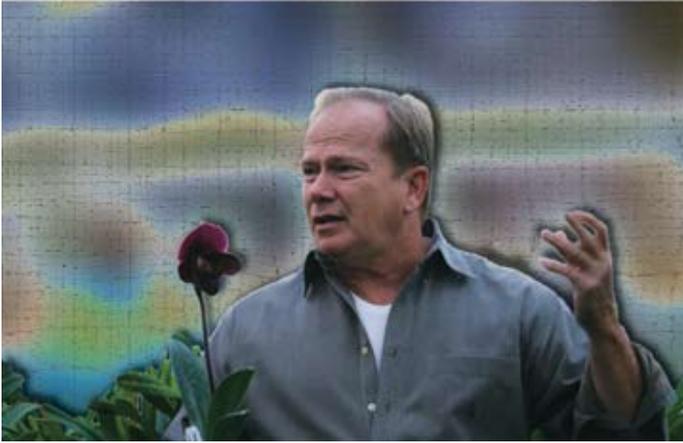


Watson Realty Corp. REALTORS®

St Augustine Orchid Society Organization

President	Mike Heinz mgheinz@comcast.net
First Vice President Program Chair	Sue Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net
Second Vice President Publicity Chair	Vivienne Rowe tomvivrowe@bellsouth.net
Secretary AOS/Orchid Digest Rep	Lola Stark seacuter@bellsouth.net
Treasurer	Bill Gourley wgourley@bellsouth.net
Directors at Large	Terry Bottom, bottomt@bellsouth.net Paul Jones, trjones_99@yahoo.com Dick Roth, rhroth405@aol.com
Exhibit Committee Chair Librarians	Jack Higgins jacktravel2003@yahoo.com Betsy and Haley Bastian n1ghtm00n@hotmail.com
Membership Committee Chair, Roving Reporter	Gail Marshall gwpb@aol.com
Newsletter Editors Webmasters	Sue and Terry Bottom sbottom15@bellsouth.net bottomt@bellsouth.net
Operations Committee Chair	Jeanette Smith jesmith@watsonrealtycorp.com





February 28 Keiki Club Meeting Rescheduled to April

We have to reschedule the picnic date to April 18 or April 25 because of the busy Spring Show season. Once we can confirm the new date, we will send out a notice so you can mark your calendar

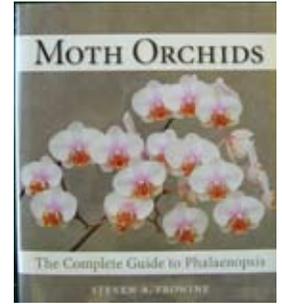


March 3 Monthly SAOS Meeting

Jim Sabetto and his wife, Cynthia, operated Tropic 1 Orchids in Kissimmee for many years. Jim is a long time grower in the Central Florida area. He has made many hybrids in *Cattleya*, *Phalaenopsis* and other genera. For the last 10 years he has concentrated on growing some of the finest *Vandas* and related species anywhere and has received many AOS awards along the way along with numerous AOS Trophies for his exhibits in shows. Jim will be talking about how to grow healthy *Vandas* in our area.

What's New in the Library

Moth Orchids: The Complete Guide to Phalaenopsis
Steven Frowine



With their refined beauty and elegant flower form, moth orchids (members of the genus *Phalaenopsis*) are often referred to as the basic black of the orchid world. In fact, moth orchids are the most popular orchids in the world, accounting for a staggering 75 percent of all orchid plant sales. More than merely beautiful, they are also among the easiest orchids to grow, whether in greenhouses, on windowsills, or under artificial lights, and the individual flowers can last for up to three months in pristine form. These appealing traits make moth orchids the first choice of every orchid fancier, from rank beginners to dyed-in-the-wool fanatics.

Most flower lovers are familiar with the elegant white, pink, and striped hybrids, but a revolution in *phalaenopsis* breeding has resulted in an entirely new, diverse, and wonderful array of flower colors and patterns previously unimaginable. Professional horticulturist and orchid expert Steven A. Frowine focuses on these new stars while also providing a detailed look at the classic hybrids and species. Readers will be enticed by the book's 365 lavish color photographs and gratified by the wealth of practical advice on selecting and buying moth orchids. Most importantly, Frowine shares his secrets on how these glorious plants can be grown to perfection, with recommendations about light levels, potting media, watering, and feeding. Especially useful are his clearly illustrated step-by-step directions on how to repot, trim, and propagate moth orchids.



Masdevillia rosea, Photo By Greg Allikas





Harriet prepares a bud set for presentation



Club members absorb Harriet's instructions

January Keiki Club Meeting - Flower Staking

Harriet Wright braved the cold weather to teach 18 SAOSers a variety of staking techniques for the best presentation of our flowers. She has many tricks for orienting your flower bud as it develops. For cattleyas, first anchor the pseudobulb using a stake and twist tie. Then think Playtex bra: lift and separate! You can use wires, pantyhose, newspaper plastic bags, cotton batting, florist tape or Styrofoam cutouts to separate your flower blooms, always keeping the flowers oriented towards the light. The flowers will tend to orient themselves lip downward as the flower buds develop. Once the bud starts to open and harden off, you can remove your devices and enjoy your beautiful flower. For phalaenopsis, tie the inflorescence to the stake about 4 to 6 inches below the terminal bud.



Barbara Conrad with plastic bag spread buds



Plastic bag used to spread buds



Styrofoam cut to spread buds apart



Bill Gourley's bud separation handiwork



Continued from page 1

Our Keiki club meeting will be on February 28 and will be a trip to Krull-Smith Orchids in Apopka. We will leave the Bottom's promptly at 9:00. They are planning to give us a picnic lunch at their pavilion. If you plan to car pool, please offer to help pay for the gas. Also, don't take too many people in one car so you have room in your car for orchids!



Costa Rican Pacific Coast

The Miami Orchid show will be February 27-March 1 and the Naples Orchid Show March 27-29. Please use our website for details of location.

Our program for the evening was from the American Group Travel with Shelton A. Thorne. He took us on a slide trip through Costa Rica and Panama, showing us where the orchid species are found. He's been making this trip for 15 years and going to the Costa Rica Orchid Society Show for the last seven years. Costa Rica is the most bio-diverse country in the world, have some 1400 species of not only orchids, but other species of flora and fauna. The mountain range between Costa Rica and Panama rises 12,000 feet and has more butterfly species than Africa. The national



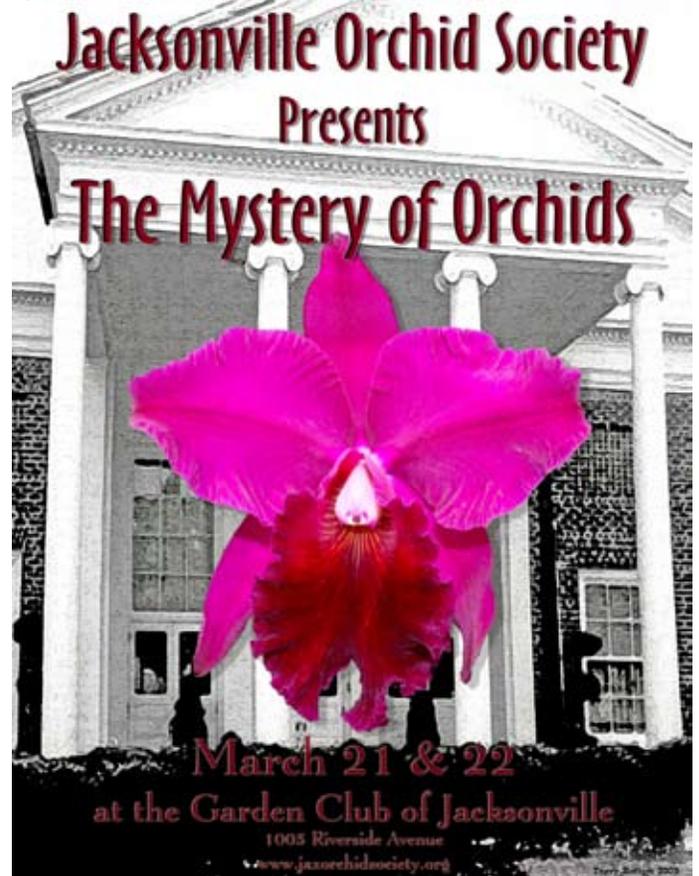
Stroll through Costa Rican Botanical Gardens



Costa Rican Orchid house

flower of Costa Rica is the *Cattleya skinneri*. Mr. Thorne recommended that we get the *Field Guide to the Orchids of Costa Rica* before taking one of his trips. He takes at least four every spring and summer, depending on how many people want to go and when they want to go. The pupae of the butterfly species in Costa Rica eat 10% of the canopy of trees, allowing the sun to get through for better orchid growth and flowering.

Following the lecture, we had a short intermission and then had our monthly raffle and auction. The favorite orchid on the Show Table was Dick Roth's *Dendrobium speciosum*.





Growing Tips for February

By
Courtney T. Hackney
Dept. Biology
Univ. North Florida
Email:
Hackneau@comcast.net

Nothing is as basic to orchid culture as the orchid pot. There is more to the pot than just a container and selection of the best pot for your orchid plants can mean the difference between success and failure. The choice of growing container depends on the type of orchid being grown and the growing environment, i.e. your home or a greenhouse.

One of my favorite pots is the clear plastic type. They are generally produced using the same plastic and process as other orchid pots, but no color is added. Instead, a UV inhibitor is added to prevent sunlight from breaking down the plastic. Occasionally, pots will be made and sold without the UV inhibitor and these pots discolor and disintegrate in just a few months in the sunlight.

Besides additional drainage, many plastic orchid pots have a raised bottom, which allows air to flow below and through the pot. All orchids hate stale air because it is depleted in oxygen. Orchids are now grown in just about every medium from those that retain water well, such as New Zealand or Chilean Sphagnum to various types of rock, including lava rock and Stalite.

The real beauty in a clear pot is the ability to determine the degree of wetness within the pot. I grow Paphs in lava rock. Paph roots prefer a constant moisture level. If their roots dry out the orchid suffers. In clear plastic, it is easy to tell when the moisture level drops because the inside of the pot can be easily observed. With lava

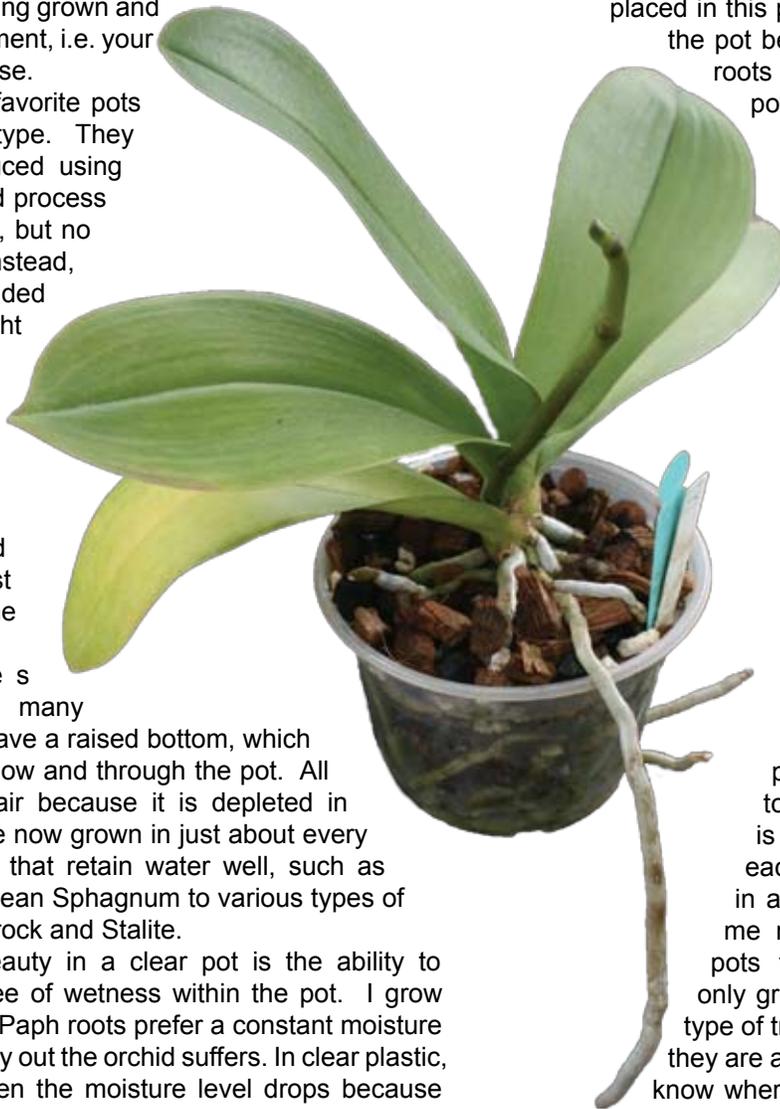
rock there is never the chance that the medium will get too soggy as long as each rock is $>1/4$ " in diameter. It is also easy to observe the new roots because they like to grow along the inside of the pot where moisture precipitates from the change in temperature each night. Lava rock retains lots of moisture, but other types of rock typically do not.

Phals are often grown in clear plastic pots with New Zealand Sphagnum as the medium. Phals sold as pot plants often arrive in clear pots, the ones that degrade quickly in the sun. Phal roots will grow along the clear plastic side of the pot and seem to always grow best where the sun strikes the pot. Phals in this type of pot usually have big, fat roots that turn green if moist. If you purchase a phal in this medium and there are no roots growing along the inside of the pot you can be sure the plant was recently placed in this pot. Water only when the inside of the pot becomes very dry at least until new roots can be seen growing inside the pot.

In clear pots, Phal roots, which contain chlorophyll, can generate oxygen and aid root growth if watered properly. When moisture levels are low on the inside of the pot in the morning it is time to water. Often the surface will be so dry by this time that most folks would have already watered, which would have been too soon.

Most hobbyists grow in bark or some other organic medium. Clear pots allow an easy way to determine the degree of medium decomposition, which may vary greatly depending on the medium, fertilizer, and watering frequency.

Finding clear, plastic pots is not always easy and they can be prohibitively expensive compared to other plastic pots. My strategy is to try to have at least one plant of each orchid type, i.e. Phal, Paph, etc, in a clear pot on every bench to help me monitor the moisture condition in pots throughout the greenhouse. The only group of orchids that do not get this type of treatment are my cattleyas because they are all grown in clay pots. Does anyone know where I can get clear, clay pots? That would be ideal.



Orchid Questions & Answers

Where Members Share Experiences

Sue Bottom, sbottom15@bellsouth.net

Q. When my catasetum lost its leaves I put it on a high shelf in the garage for the winter. I recently had the thought that since it is mostly dark in the garage maybe it would be better in the house with a little light. I moved it into the house hoping to remember to check it every couple of weeks. Now I wonder if it is too warm and dry being in a heated part of the house. Seems you just leave yours in the greenhouse and don't water but there is good humidity. Any thoughts on where I should have mine?



A. We've had different advice. Jamie Lawson told us that once the plant goes dormant, you can pull it from the pot and just store it in the garage until new growth begins. Fred Clarke told us that keeping the plant in the pot surrounded by the old medium will help keep the old pseudobulbs from dehydrating. I think it's better to keep the plant in last year's media and wait for the new growth to begin. If you keep the plant where you see it, you'll be able to tell when



the new growth begins, the trigger for our repotting activity. First, you have to determine whether you plan to repot the catasetum this year (because the plant has overgrown its pot or the old medium is worn out). If you plan to repot, knock the plant out of its pot when new growth begins, cut off most of the old roots, repot BUT DO NOT WATER. Wait for the new growth to be 4 or 5 tall inches before you water. Repeat, do not water until the new growth is 4 or 5 inches tall. I have repotted about a dozen catasetums so far this year after noticing new growth and have somehow resisted the almost irresistible urge to water the plants.

Q. What's the best potting mix for Catasetums?



A. I use a mix of sphagnum moss and sponge rok and interlayer the media with the time release Dynamite like an Oreo sandwich. Think about how catasetums grow, they are dormant during much of the winter months and then grow like mad during the 7 or 8 months of their growing season, so they need a ton of water and fertilizer to fatten up their pseudobulbs for late summer and fall blooming. I don't grow many orchids in sphagnum but catasetums seem to thrive in it. If you just plain hate sphagnum, use a coconut husk/sponge rok/aliflor mix similar to what you might use for a phalaenopsis. You want something that will provide a lot of water and nutrients to the root zone but is also airy enough to provide good drainage. Then water and fertilize like mad during the growing season and await your blooming reward.



What's in Bloom

Paul Jones,
trjones_99@yahoo.com

Several members have stunning bloomers this month and that's amazing considering we saw more cold weather in January than most Floridians would ever care to see! Email me the pictures you take of your plants in bloom. Be sure to include a brief description of how you grow them and any other interesting tidbit or anecdote about your beauty you wish to share. Almost every orchid has a story to tell and a history behind it!



***Ascocenda Orange Crush* Grown by Bill Roth**



***Vanda lamellata 'Tom'* Grown By Bill Roth**



***Rhyncostylis gigantea 'Beauty Points'* Grown
By Bill Roth**

Bill Roth's fabulous Vandas: Here are a few bloomers for the winter. I don't seem to have had much cold damage. Dropped a few older bottom leaves on some plants. I covered and wrapped the shade house with plastic and just ran one space heater and a fan. I opened it one morning and there was literally a cloud or fog in the entire place. It rolled out like fog coming into San Francisco Bay. I only fertilize every other week now but still keep using fungicide monthly - so far, so good. Hope you enjoy.

Bill Gourley's blue Vanda: *V. Pachara Delight 'Pachara' AM/AOS* was purchased from Raphael Romero at the October 2007 Orchidfest in Deland. It bloomed 3 times in 2008 with 9 flowers this time 4 1/2 inches across. I keep it out by the pool which has a screen enclosure that gives about 30% shade. I built a hanging rack with PVC pipe that holds a dozen or so hanging plants. Draped over the top of the rack is more window screening which brings the available light down to the 4,500 foot candle range. I hose it down every day and spray it with fertilizer once a week using a dilution to provide about 120 ppm of nitrogen, as recommended by

Continued on page 9



Continued from page 8

Harry McElroy in his presentation to SAOS in the summer of 2007, one of my first meetings. I think Martin Motes suggests the same thing in his book Florida Orchid Growing. Whenever the temperature goes below 60 degrees, I bring it in to the house.



V. Pachara Delight 'Pachara' Grown By Bill Gourley

Charlie Wesley has shared one of his magnificent pictures with us. This is a shot of his mother-in-law's Phalaenopsis hybrid in bloom. Charlie reports that the plant does not have a name and was concerned we could not use it in the article. Not so affectionately referred to as NOID (no identification) plants, these are plants that have either lost their name tags or never had one. They are still important in the SAOS and we never want to ignore or overlook them. In some cases, we can determine the name of a plant so always bring it to a meeting or share a photo of it. They can also be used in club exhibits at orchid shows when in bloom.



***Phalaenopsis Hybrid Photographed
By Charlie Wesley***



Blc. Chia Lin 'New City' AM/AOS Grown By Paul Jones

Paul's Blc. Chia Lin 'New City' AM/AOS: I got this plant at the SAOS Christmas auction in 2007. She re-bloomed for me for the first time in January 2009. She is growing in an empty eight inch hanging wooden basket and seems quite happy there. She gets lots of bright light even some direct sun in the branches of the oleander "orchid tree". I give her Inoculaid and Orchid Pro once a week in spring/summer/fall and once every two or three weeks in mid-winter. She should be a specimen plant in short order.



Vasco. Prapawan Grown By Bill Roth





Mary Ann Bell

It's fitting that Mary Ann Bell lives in a place called World Golf Village, because the world has certainly been her oyster. Growing up in a very small town in West Virginia, Mary Ann graduated from West Virginia University in pharmacy, then grew into a supervisory position at The Johns Hopkins Hospital. She's been a pharmacist for 43 years full time, but has recently cut back to part time at the Publix pharmacy on SR210 in Jax. This, she says, will give her more time for orchids and world travel – of which she's done a lot. It began 'way back when' in the 'early' years with a trip into the 10,000 foot high mountains of the Andes. Because of her blonde hair, pale skin and blue eyes, the Colombian natives, who rarely saw outsiders, thought she was a ghost. She's been to Europe many, many times and was spellbound walking the streets of Ephesus where Cleopatra walked. She'll go to Alaska in June and the Mediterranean in October. Mary Ann always has loved flowers and grew up at her grandmother's side, growing roses. But it was on her first trip to Hawaii in 1986 that she fell in love with orchids and started shipping plants home. Knowing nothing about orchids, they didn't do well in the beginning, but her success rate has since climbed. Now that she's semi-retired, she's learning more and more. Her collection of about 160 is mostly on a screened patio. Vandas hang in a rain tree. When temps drop she tents a framework of PVC with sheets over tiered shelving, and that works down to about 35 degrees. The ones in bloom and bud come into the house. Mary Ann is awed by unusual oncidiums but loves vandas best because of their gorgeous depth of color.



Veronica Rickles

St. Augustine residents for only a year and a half, Veronica Rickles and husband Dave are still breaking into southern gardening. They moved here after 4 years in Georgia, but most of their lives lived in Chicago – that windy place where snow is measured in feet.

While there, Veronica was a teacher for 20 years, teaching elementary, middle and high school, regular curriculum, special education and gifted and talented. In the heavy, rich

soil of the Midwest she was big into northern gardening and landscaping but once here, quickly found that things don't grow easily in the sand. Still, she missed flowers so turned to orchids to bring beauty and color into the house. So far, Veronica has about 30 in her collection, the favorites being cattleyas, both classic and mini. In winter when temps fall, her orchids are in the house under lights, but once the temps rise again, they're back outdoors in her shady backyard. Veronica loves Keiki Club and field trips so much she is delaying seeing a relative she hasn't seen for 40 years to go to Krull-Smith this February. She says "After 40 years, what's another week?" When not into orchids, Veronica does scrapbooking and photography. She's scanned over a thousand photos she took over the last 38 years into her computer. They'll eventually be added to a family web site which currently holds a couple hundred photos, some old, some new – tons of their only grandchild, 3 year old Maria Celeste who speaks both English and Spanish, sometimes in the same sentence.



Karen Turowski

Karen Turowski is a person of variety – which will work out perfectly considering the 7,000,000 orchid options open to her. Originally from the Boston area working in mortgage banking, she and her husband Ted moved to Palm Coast 4 years ago, and they are both now in real estate. About a year ago she worked for a florist and was given a phalaenopsis that had bloomed out and was no longer able to be sold. Her interest in orchids began there. Now she has six -- three phals and three cattleyas - and she's ready to add more. Besides orchids, Karen is into gardening and landscaping around her home.



SHOW TABLE



Terry Bottom

Grower Marv & Jan Ragan
Dendrochilum bicallosum



Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Harriet Wright
L. praestans



Terry Bottom

Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
C. glauca 'alba'



Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Bulb. ambrosia



Terry Bottom

Grower Mike & Kaycee Heinz
Den. goldschmidtianum



Terry Bottom

Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Tom Thumb



Terry Bottom

Grower Sue Bottom
Lc. Canhamiana x C. Dupreana



SHOW TABLE



Terry Bottom

Grower Sue Bottom
Lc. Lilac Dream



Terry Bottom

Grower Dick Roth
Den. speciosum



Terry Bottom

Grower Dick Roth
Den. Sea Marian 'Snow King'



Terry Bottom

Grower Harry & Celia McElroy
Cym. Ray's Red 'Comet'



Terry Bottom

Grower Harriet & Mike Wright
Slc. Hsin Buu Lady



Terry Bottom

Grower Gail Marshall
Lc. Tropical Trick

